

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

In reply refer to
I-3342/67

11 MAR 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: The Space Treaty and Observation Satellites

I understand that Senator Gore has asked if the Space Treaty prohibits the use of observation satellites. It does not. Such a prohibition was never considered and never discussed during treaty negotiations.

Article IV of the treaty specifies that "States Parties to the treaty undertake not to place in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction" Other types of military satellites are not mentioned and it is clear that they are not affected in any way. (These include mapping, observation, or communication vehicles.)

The issue was discussed with the Soviets prior to the adoption of the UN resolution on the peaceful use of outer space in December 1963, and the Soviets, at that time, agreed that the resolution would not in any way prohibit reconnaissance satellites.

SIGNED

John T. McKeon
ASD

Copies made:

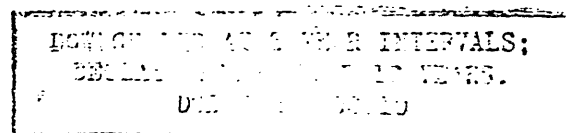
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cc - comeback
cc - hold

Prep by: Mr. Anderson/ldb/10 Mar 67
Arms Control/4C762/76645

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Authority E. O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)

By TL NARS. Date 7-19-79



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